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(54) **SYSTEM, METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MEDIA SUBMISSION**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A system, method and apparatus for media submission. The submission mechanism is configurable to perform a variable amount of intelligent preprocessing on media objects prior to upload. In the example of digital images, the tool can perform sizing and formatting, for example.

51 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets

Homes Realtor Services	
Getting Started	Send Photos
Homes	Financing
Offer & Closing	Help
Today's Rates 30-Year Fixed 6.75% 15-Year Fixed 6.45% 1-Year Adjustable 5.6% *National average rates <input type="button" value="Find a Loan"/> <input type="button" value="Rate News"/>	
Adding Photos to your listings Get better exposure for your listings by including some pictures of the property. It's easy! Just locate the folder on your computer containing your photos, and then drag them into the boxes below. Select a descriptive caption for each photo and then click the "Send Photos" button.	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div> <div>Drag Photo Here</div> <div>Front View</div> </div> <div> <div>Drag Photo Here</div> <div>Front View</div> </div> <div> <div>Drag Photo Here</div> <div>Front View</div> </div> <div> <div>Drag Photo Here</div> <div>Front View</div> </div> </div>	
Highlights Welcome to Homes! We hope you enjoy our site Please send us your feedback	
Home & Rate Trackers Receive free e-mail updates	
Listing Name <input type="text"/>	
<input type="button" value="Send Photos"/>	

Exhibit No.

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Homes

Realtor Services

Getting Started

Send Photos

Homes

Financing

Offer & Closing

Help

Today's Rates

30-Year Fixed	6.75%
15-Year Fixed	6.45%
1-Year Adjustable	5.6%

*National average rates

Find a Loan

Rate News

Highlights

Welcome to Homes!

We hope you enjoy our site

Please send us your feedback

Home & Rate Trackers

Receive free e-mail updates

Adding Photos to your listings

Get better exposure for your listings by including some pictures of the property. Its easy! Just locate the folder on your computer containing your photos, and then drag them into the boxes below. Select a descriptive caption for each photo and then click the "Send Photos" button.

Drag Photo Here

Front View

Drag Photo Here

Front View

Drag Photo Here

Front View

Drag Photo Here

Front View

Listing Name

Send Photos

Frequently Asked Questions

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FIG. 1










<p>Picture? PIC</p> <p>Digital Image Processing by PictureWorks</p> 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> (\$0.25 charge) (optional)</p> <p>Adding a photo of your item</p> <p>Get better exposure for your items by including a picture. Its easy! Just locate the folder on your computer containing your photos, and then drag a photo into the box below.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px; margin: 10px auto; width: 200px; position: relative;"> <div style="position: absolute; top: 50%; left: 50%; transform: translate(-50%, -50%); text-align: center;">  <p>Click Here to Select Images</p> </div> </div>
<p>SurroundView?</p> <p>Digital Image Processing by PictureWorks</p> 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> (\$2.00 charge) (optional)</p> <p>Adding a SurroundView</p> <p>Really show off your item. Add a SurroundView. Its easy! Just locate the folder on your computer containing your photos, and then drag up to six photos into the boxes below. The photos will be combined into an animated presentation.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">  <p>Click Here to Select Images</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">  <p>Click Here to Select Images</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">  <p>Click Here to Select Images</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">  <p>Click Here to Select Images</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">  <p>Click Here to Select Images</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">  <p>Click Here to Select Images</p> </div> </div>

FIG. 2

PWImageControl Interface:

Interface Name	Type	Definition	Signature
ScaleImage	function	Scales an image in place or to a temporary file	ScaleImage(destinationType as String, changeDimensions as Integer, destWidth As Integer, destHeight As Integer, destQuality As Integer, '0-100 generateOutputFilename As Boolean ' create tempfile) As String
DelTempFile	sub	Deletes temporary file created with ScaleImage	DelTempFile()
fileName	String property	Name of file shown in image well	fileName as String
imageName	String property	String value from image caption box	imageName as String
ClearImage	sub	Clears the image from the display and redisplay the logo and instructional text	ClearImage()
backgroundColor	String property	Hexidecimal RGB string value in format "FFFFFF" or "#FFFFFF"	backgroundColor as String
textColor	String property	Hexidecimal RGB string value in format "FFFFFF" or "#FFFFFF"	textColor as String

FIG. 3

PWMediaSendControl Interface:

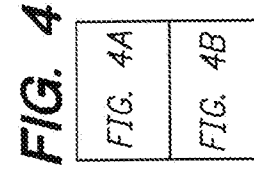
<i>Interface Name</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Definition</i>	<i>Signature</i>
<i>SubmitMediaRequest</i>	<i>function</i>	<i>Transfers image and returns a status code. The action is successful if the return code is 0. If non-zero return code examine ServerRetString for a reason.</i>	<i>SubmitMediaRequest(</i> <i>UserID As String, 'partner UID</i> <i>Password As String, 'partner password</i> <i>ServiceType As String, "'HOST" or "MIRROR"</i> <i>IndustryCode As Integer, 'e.g., 65=real estate</i> <i>MediaType As Integer, '1=image 2=video 3=sound</i> <i>OpCode As Integer, '1=Add, 2=Update, 3=Delete</i> <i>IPAddr As String, 'Destination IP address</i> <i>filename As String, 'File to send</i> <i>MediaGroupID As String, 'Used to build unique key</i> <i>MediaExtendedID As String, '""</i> <i>MediaSequenceNum As Integer, '""</i> <i>Desc1 As String, '255 chars</i> <i>Desc2 As String, '255 chars</i> <i>Desc3 As String</i> <i>preScaled as Integer) as Integer '255 chars</i> <i>ServerRetString as String</i>
<i>ServerRetString</i>	<i>String property</i>	<i>Return value from SubmitMediaRequest. If call made on HOST service, this string contains the IMG SRC url</i>	

FIG. 4A

```

Usage Example (VB Script)
tempFileName=DragImage1.ScaleImage(320, 240, 89, 1) 'scale the image object 'DragImage1'
result=UpdHandler.SubmitMediaRequest(
    UserID,
    Password,
    ServiceType,
    0,
    1,
    1,
    ipAddress,
    tempFileName,
    misNum.Value,
    zipcode,
    imageCount,
    title,
    desc2,
    desc3,
    1)
DragImage3.DelTempFile 'delete the temp file

```

FIG. 4B

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SYSTEM, METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MEDIA SUBMISSION

This application is a continuation of non-provisional application Ser. No. 13/098,090, filed Apr. 29, 2011, which is a continuation of non-provisional application Ser. No. 12/831,503, filed Jul. 7, 2010, which is a continuation of non-provisional application Ser. No. 10/961,720, filed Oct. 8, 2004 (now U.S. Pat. No. 7,765,482), which is a continuation of non-provisional application Ser. No. 09/357,836, filed Jul. 21, 1999 (now U.S. Pat. No. 6,895,557). Each of the applications identified above is incorporated by reference herein, in its entirety, for all purposes.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to the handling, manipulation and processing of digital content and more particularly to the transportation and Internet publishing of digital content, particularly image media objects and rich media.

2. State of the Art

Much of the phenomenal success of the web is attributable to its graphical nature. Literally, a picture is worth a thousand words. The capture of digital images has become routine, using digital cameras and scanners. Nevertheless, although the handling of images by website creators has achieved a high degree of automation, for the average technology user (the “imaging civilian”), manipulating and sharing digital images over the Internet remains a cumbersome and daunting process. Piecemeal solutions that have been devised for handling digital images require a level of sophistication that is beyond that of the ordinary user. For example, transferring a digital image may require first downloading a FTP program, then installing it, then running it and connecting to an FTP server by typing the server name in the connection dialog, then navigating to the proper subdirectory, selecting the files to be uploaded, making sure that the program is in binary transfer mode, then sending the files. For the imaging civilian, such an involved process can be daunting to say the least.

Additionally, as technologies advance and casual users begin to experiment with other media objects, such as streaming video, 3D objects, slide shows, graphics, movies, and even sound files that accompany imaging data, the processes required to share these rich media types on the Internet becomes exponentially more complicated and prohibitive. As the realization of the Internet as an interactive, content rich medium becomes more and more a reality, the need for enabling the use and distribution of rich content and media on the Internet will become the gating factor to its long term success.

A broad-based solution to the foregoing problem requires a web-based media submission tool that allows for submission of media objects in a convenient, intuitive manner. A company named Caught in the Web, has attempted to create a broad-based media submission tool known as “ActiveUpload”. ActiveUpload allows an arbitrary file to be dragged and dropped onto a web page control for upload to the web server. An ActiveUpload control allows users to, without leaving a web page, transfer files to a server (Internet or intranet) by selecting the files on the user’s desktop that the user wants to transfer, then dragging them onto the web page. For example, a user, having visited a web page, can contribute pictures, documents, zip files, etc., without having to leave the web page and use an FTP program. Standard web authoring tools can be used to integrate ActiveUpload into web pages and change the behavior of the control.

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Although Caught in the Web’s ActiveUpload tool simplifies the user experience, it does little toward furthering “back-end” automation in the handling and distribution of media objects and has no built in “intelligence” to streamline the process of handling and transporting rich media objects from the front end.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention may be further understood from the following description in conjunction with the appended drawing. In the drawing:

FIG. 1 is a diagram of an exemplary web page providing media object acquisition functions;

FIG. 2 is a diagram of another exemplary web page providing image acquisition functions;

FIG. 3 is a table pertaining to a first portion of the Prepare and Post component design; and

FIGS. 4A and 4B illustrate a table pertaining to a second portion of the Prepare and Post component design.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The present invention, generally speaking, provides an improved web-based media submission tool. As with some existing tools, operation of the tool is drag and drop or the user can “click” to browse a directory to select media objects. Unlike existing tools, the tool provides several unique and valuable functions. For example, the tool provides the user an opportunity to confirm the submission with a visual representation, for example by generating a thumbnail image of the rich media file that has been selected. Additionally, batch submission is provided to allow a user to drag and drop or select a plurality of images or other media objects. Submission from a web page to a web page is also provided for. Even more importantly, the submission tool is configurable to perform a variable amount of intelligent preprocessing on media objects prior to upload. In the case of digital images, the tool can perform sizing and formatting, for example. Information capture is performed with information being uploaded together with the media objects. In an exemplary embodiment, information capture is both user-transparent (e.g., user ID and/or password) and user-visible (e.g., the user can provide captions for media objects). The submission of information about the user and the media objects facilitates automatic integration of the media objects within existing databases.

The following describes the Prepare and Post™ tools, which prepares and submits media objects from inside a standard browser, referred to as the first location, to a second location or server. The media objects may be pictures (images), movies, videos, graphics, sound clips, etc. Although in the following description the submission of images is described in greatest detail, the same principles apply equally to media objects of all descriptions.

The Prepare and Post tools refers to browser-side components which together provide the ability to submit and transport media objects over the web to be stored and served. Using the Prepare and Post tools, end users can submit images in an immediate, intuitive manner. No technical sophistication is required. In particular, understanding technical terms such as JPEG, resolution, pixel, kilobyte, transfer protocol, IP address, FTP etc., is not required, since the Prepare and Post tools handles all of these tasks for the user.

The benefits of the Prepare and Post tool are:

a) to the image submitter, the ability to submit media objects to web pages immediately without needing to overcome technical obstacles;

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b) to the image submitter, the ability to submit media objects to web pages “as is” without making modifications to the media objects prior to sending.

c) to PictureWorks web site partner, access to a uniform, standardized, reliable and secure channel for media acquisition;

d) to PictureWorks web site partner, access to contributed media “made to order”, it meets their imaging specifications every time without human intervention;

e) to PictureWorks web site partner, the ability to provide web site visitors with an easy, error free way to contribute media;

f) to PictureWorks web site partner, access to contributed media in “real time” with no time delays.

The two primary components used in the Prepare and Post tools which carry out these functions are 1) the media object identifier and 2) the media sender.

In general, the media object identifier functions to provide a graphical interface for placing and associating a media object from a user’s desktop onto a web page. The media sender carries out the function of transmitting media objects to a second location.

There are two ways media objects on the first location become associated with a media object identifier. The first is through a “drag and drop” behavior where the user clicks on a media object to select the one they want to submit. The media object is then dragged to the media object identifier. Releasing the mouse button associates the media object with the media object identifier. This behavior is allowed in web browsers that support drag and drop functionality. The Prepare and Post tools enable these browsers to accept media objects via drag and drop by providing the media object identifier as an ActiveX component.

The second way to associate a media object on the first location with the media object identifier is to click on the media object identifier to browse for media objects, then select the media object of choice. This method is made available for web browsers where the media object identifier needs to be a pure Java component. (Such “signed applet browsers” like Netscape Navigator) In this instance, the user may be asked to choose a media object in a similar manner as when choosing a file to be opened, either by graphical navigation or by specifying a path name. For example, a prompt associated with the media object identifier may be displayed prompting the user to click within the media object identifier. Clicking within the media object identifier brings up a browse dialog. Using the browse dialog, the user selects the desired media object, which is then placed in the media object identifier. The Prepare and Post tools will generate a visual representation or thumbnail of the media object, a feature currently not available in signed applet browsers.

Real estate is an example of a prime application of the Prepare and Post tools. “Curb appeal” is of great importance in the realty industry and can only be judged by “drive-bys,” which are time-consuming and laborious, or by the availability of images. The Prepare and Post tools make real estate images readily available with a minimal amount of effort.

Referring to FIG. 1, an example is shown of a realty web page featuring the described Prepare and Post tools functionality. The user associates images with a media object identifier via the methods described above and selects appropriate captions for the images, e.g., living room, family room, etc. The captions may be typed in or selected from menus. The user also supplies identifying information, in this instance the MLS listing number. When the user clicks the Send button, the images are uploaded and processed immediately according to the configuration of the Prepare and Post tools.

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The Prepare and Post tools also support a batch interface, allowing a plurality of images to be submitted simultaneously as in the case of a professional photographer, for example. The opportunity for user confirmation is again provided, e.g., by displaying a visual representation of the images in the batch.

If a mistake is made such that the wrong image is placed in a media object identifier, the correct image may be placed in the media object identifier. The correct image will replace the mistaken image. Alternatively, the user may remove an image from a media object identifier by right-clicking on the media object identifier and selecting Remove within a resulting pop-up menu.

Note that any number of media object identifiers may be provided on a web page and that the media object identifiers may be separate or grouped. This is evident in FIG. 2. The number of media object identifiers provided on a page can be pre-configured and fixed, allowing no user intervention, or the media object identifiers can be generated dynamically, allowing the user to determine how many media object identifiers they need for media submission. FIG. 2 shows a web page with various sizes of media object identifiers. If a media object identifier is separate, its image will be transmitted separately to the second location. If an media object identifier is part of a group, its image will be transmitted to the second location as part of a group of images that are stored together and cataloged together. Media object identifiers that are associated together as a group are noted as such in the web page interface and transparently in the media object identifier object code. Moreover, a web page may have multiple groups of media object identifiers, or “groups of groups.”

The usefulness of images is greatly enhanced by capturing and identifying information about the images and submitting the identifying information with the images. Information may be image-specific, user-specific or both. The submission of information about the user and the media objects facilitates automatic integration of the media objects within existing databases. Information capture may be overt or covert or both. This unique automatic database integration enables the images to be served with the proper web page data. Overt information capture relies upon the user to make menu selections of appropriate captions as illustrated in FIG. 1, or to make text entries within text fields, or both. The Prepare and Post tools are easily customized to accept menu selections and text fields for different applications. Covert information capture occurs by having the web browser automatically pass to the Prepare and Post tools known information such as a user ID or, password used to access the web page.

A key differentiator of the Prepare and Post tools is the browser, or client-side intelligence built into the tools. This intelligence directly provides features including those already outlined such as associating data with media objects, generating a visual representation of the media objects and generating media object identifiers dynamically or in a pre-set manner. Other features are also provided via this intelligence, specifically, the ability to control the width and height of the media object identifier and the ability to preprocess the media objects in any number of ways prior to transporting to a second location. In the case of an image media object for example, the Prepare and Post tools may resize the image, (i.e., increase or decrease its size as defined by either physical dimensions, pixel count, or kilobytes). Compression, for example, is a type of sizing. The Prepare and Post tools may also change the image’s file format (a way of a media object being identified as to a “type” or “kind” of media), change the quality setting of the image, crop the image or change the aspect ratio, add text or annotations, encode or combine (in-

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cluding stitching) the media object, or enhance the media object by changing image values, for example, relating to contrast or saturation. This intelligence may be executed in a manner that is transparent to the end user. This transparency allows the end user to submit media to the Prepare and Post tools “as is,” since the tools will automatically prepare it to meet the requirements of the second location. Note that, although image submission may involve client-side processing, image processing is not required.

The Prepare and Post tools are available for customers to integrate into their own web pages. The Prepare and Post tools are easily integrated into web sites (customers) to allow those sites to accept media objects from web site visitors (users). Appendix A is a generic HTML HostTemplate illustrating how Prepare and Post components are integrated into a web page. The HTML template file (which is a complete working example) contains instructions and a few small code snippets that the customer pastes into the web page. Integrating the Prepare and Post components requires an Initialization Section, a Configuration Section, an ImageWell (media object identifier) Section, a Submission Section and an ImageUpload Control Section. To include the Prepare and Post tools media object identifiers on a web page, the customer cuts and pastes code snippets for these sections from the template into the web page.

The Initialization Section consists of a few lines of JavaScript code that will download all of the needed Prepare and Post submission components.

The Configuration Section overrides various configurable default settings that the customer can control. In the Configuration Section, the media object identifier component is sized and configured to perform any preprocessing of the image that may be desired prior to upload. Configurable parameters include both fixed values for all submissions (per submission values) and fixed values for all images within a submission (per image values), as will be explained presently.

Fixed values for all submissions include DefaultImageWidth and DefaultImageHeight, as well as include DefaultControlWidth and DefaultControlHeight. The former specify the default width and height of the images after they have been compressed for transmission. The latter specify the default width and height of all media object identifiers. To create media object identifiers having different sizes, the customer specifies the desired size when creating the media object identifier. Another fixed value for all submissions is Quality. This determines the quality level of the images after they have been compressed for transmission (0 is the lowest quality/highest compression and 100 is the highest quality/lowest compression).

Fixed values for all media objects within a submission include Key1 and Key2. Key1 is the primary value that determines the filename of the resulting image file and, consequently, its URL. It is important that each submitted image have a unique name to prevent one image from overwriting another. Key2 is an optional secondary key that is appended to Key1 before the image’s filename and URL are created. While default values for Key1 and Key2 can be specified in the configuration section, more likely this value will be sup-

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plied from a field in the web form. If the web page form contains a control named “Key1,” then its value will be used for this key. For example, the field Key1 might be labeled as “MLS Number” on the web page. Similarly, the field Key2 might be labeled “Zip Code” on the web page. A sequence number is appended to the Key1/Key2 combination. When there are multiple media object identifiers on a page, this will ensure that each image has a unique key.

All media object identifiers on a web page must be contained within an HTML form. A single line of JavaScript code is inserted into the web page (within the HTML form) in each place where a media object identifier is desired. The Media object identifier Section can specify the width and height for each media object identifier. If the width and height are omitted, then the default width and height from the Configuration Section are used.

The Submission Code Section contains HTML code that creates the button that submits both the images to the second locations and the form to the customer’s server. Within the Submission Code Section, an HTML “href” parameter is required for the Send Button that causes the images to be sent. After the images have been sent, the web page form will be submitted in the standard manner. The form must define two hidden fields named “url” and imagecount. The imagecount field will contain the number of images actually transmitted. In an exemplary embodiment, the URL for images 2 through “n” are generated by replacing the initial sequence number at the end of the returned URL with the desired image number.

The ImageUpload Control Section holds a small piece of JavaScript code that is placed at the very end of the body section of the web page. This code creates the non-visible Image Upload control, or media sender, that performs the transfer of images from the user’s machine to the second location.

The Prepare and Post components support multiple browsers and dynamically adjust their behavior according to the type of browser that is currently running. For example, under supported versions of Microsoft’s browsers, media object identifiers are implemented as ActiveX controls, while under supported Netscape browsers, media object identifiers are implemented as Java Applets. This multiple browser support is completely automatic.

FIGS. 3 and 4A-4B present further details of the media object identifier and media sender components, respectively.

From the foregoing description, it will be appreciated that the present media submission tool, besides offering convenience to the end user, offers convenience and flexibility to technology partners. In particular, web page integration is designed to facilitate automatic server-side integration of media content.

It will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art that the present invention can be embodied in other specific forms without departing from the spirit or essential character thereof. The presently disclosed embodiments are therefore considered in all respects to be illustrative and not restrictive. The scope of the invention is indicated by the appended claims rather than the foregoing description, and all changes which come within the meaning and range of equivalents thereof are intended to be embraced therein.

APPENDIX A

HostTemplate generic.htm

```
<HTML>
<HEAD>
<!--***** Begin Initialization Section -->
<!--***** This section of code must appear at -->
```

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APPENDIX A-continued

HostTemplate generic.htm

```

<!--***** the beginning of the <HEAD> section of
<!--***** your web page. Copy this code and
<!--***** paste it directly into your web page.-->
<SCRIPT type="text/javascript" src="http://157.22.134.49/company/pwtcomponents.js"></SCRIPT>
>
<SCRIPT type="text/javascript" src="http://157.22.134.49/company/company.js"></SCRIPT>
<!--***** End Initialization Section -->
</HEAD>
<BODY>
<!--***** Begin Configuration Section -->
<!--***** This section of code must appear
<!--***** anywhere after the initialization
<!--***** section (above), and before the
<!--***** the <FORM> that contains the image
<!--***** wells.
<!--*****
<!--***** This section defines data values
<!--***** needed by the image wells. You can
<!--***** modify these values to suit -->
<!--***** your needs.
<SCRIPT Language="Javascript">
PWT.Key1 = "name-your-image-here"; // If the <FORM> contains fields named 'Key1'
PWT.Key2 = " "; // & 'Key2' their values will be used.
PWT.Quality = 93;
PWT.DefaultImageWidth = 640;
PWT.DefaultImageHeight = 480;
PWT.DefaultControlWidth = 326; // Includes a 3 pixel border
PWT.DefaultControlHeight = 246; // Include a 3 pixel border
</SCRIPT>
<!--***** End Configuration Section -->
<FORM>
This sample displays a working image well.
<BR>
<!--***** Begin ImageWell Section -->
<!--***** This code creates an image well on
<!--***** the web page. While this template
<!--***** only contains a single image well,
<!--***** you can use as many as you like.
<!--***** Copy this code into your web page
<!--***** anywhere within your <FORM> where
<!--***** you want an image well to appear.
<SCRIPT Language="Javascript">
PWT.addimagecontrol( ); // or "PWT.addimagecontrol(640,480);" to override
// the default width and height.
</SCRIPT>
<!--***** End ImageWell Section -->
<BR>
This text is after the image well.
<P>
<!--***** Begin Submission Code Section -->
<!--***** You can use any type of button you
<!--***** wish, but rather than it being a
<!--***** standard SUBMIT button, it must
<!--***** instead contain the parameter:
<!--*****
<!--***** onclick="PWT.Submit( )"
<!--*****
<!--***** (as shown in the example below).
<!--***** After the images have been sent,
<!--***** your web page FORM will be submitted
<!--***** in the standard manner.
<!--*****
<!--***** Your FORM must define two hidden
<!--***** fields named "url" & "imagecount"
<!--***** (see examples below). The "url"
<!--***** field will be populated with the
<!--***** resulting URL of the first (or only)
<!--***** image submitted, and the "imagecount"-->
<!--***** field will contain the number of
<!--***** images actually transmitted. The URL
<!--***** for images 2 thru n can be generated
<!--***** by replacing the initial sequence
<!--***** number (which will always be "1")
<!--***** at the end of the returned URL with
-->
<!--***** the desired image number.
<INPUT type="hidden" name="url">
<INPUT type="hidden" name="imagecount">

```

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APPENDIX A-continued

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HostTemplate generic.htm

```

<INPUT type="button" value="Submit Images" onclick="PWT.Submit()">
</FORM>
<!-- ***** End Submission Code Section -->
<!-- ***** Begin ImageUpload Control Section -->
<!-- ***** This section of code must appear at          -->
<!-- ***** the end of the <BODY> section of             -->
<!-- ***** your web page. Copy this code and           -->
<!-- ***** paste it directly into your web page. -->
<SCRIPT Language="Javascript">
PWT.adduploadcontrol( );
</SCRIPT>
<!-- ***** End ImageUpload Control Section -->
</BODY>
</HTML>

```

What is claimed is:

1. A non-transitory computer-readable medium having an image submission tool stored thereon for use on a user device, the image submission tool including:

an image identifier section that when first executed, causes the image submission tool to generate a first visual representation of a first image, the first visual representation enabling a user to determine whether the first image should be replaced with a first replacement image, to enable a user to enter first text information as a first caption for the first image or the first replacement image, and to pre-process the first image or the first replacement image to produce a first pre-processed image, and when second executed, causes the image submission tool to generate a second visual representation of a second image, the second visual representation enabling a user to determine whether the second image should be replaced with a second replacement image, to enable a user to enter second text information as a second caption for the second image or the second replacement image, and to pre-process the second image or the second replacement image to produce a second pre-processed image, wherein the pre-processing by the image submission tool is controlled by one or more pre-processing parameters received from a device separate from the user device in a conversion of the first image or the first replacement image and in a conversion of the second image or the second replacement image as specified for use by a receiving party;

a submission section that when first executed, causes the image submission tool to enable a user to submit the first pre-processed image, and when second executed, causes the image submission tool to enable a user to submit the second pre-processed image; and

an image upload control section that when first executed, causes the image submission tool to transmit the first pre-processed image, and when second executed, causes the image submission tool to transmit the second pre-processed image, wherein the first pre-processed image and the second pre-processed image are grouped together in a presentation.

2. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the image identifier section when first executed causes the image submission tool to generate the first visual representation from a first image file.

3. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the first pre-processed image has a compression level as specified by the one or more pre-processing parameters.

4. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the first pre-processed image is cropped in a manner specified by the one or more pre-processing parameters.

5. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the first pre-processed image has a quality as specified by the one or more pre-processing parameters.

6. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the first pre-processed image has a file format as specified by the one or more pre-processing parameters.

7. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the first pre-processed image has an encoding as specified by the one or more pre-processing parameters.

8. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the image submission tool combines the first pre-processed image and the second pre-processed image into an animated presentation.

9. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the image upload control section when first executed causes the image submission tool to transmit the first text information.

10. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the image upload control section when first executed causes the image submission tool to transmit location information associated with the first pre-processed image.

11. A computer implemented method performed by an image submission tool on a user device, comprising:

causing the image submission tool to generate a first visual representation of a first image, the first visual representation enabling a user to determine whether the first image should be replaced with a first replacement image, to enable a user to enter first text information as a first caption for the first image or the first replacement image, and to pre-process the first image or the first replacement image to produce a first pre-processed image;

causing the image submission to generate a second visual representation of a second image, the second visual representation enabling a user to determine whether the second image should be replaced with a second replacement image, to enable a user to enter second text information as a second caption for the second image or the second replacement image, and to pre-process the second image or the second replacement image to produce a second pre-processed image, wherein the pre-processing by the image submission tool is controlled by one or more pre-processing parameters received from a device separate from the user device in a conversion of the first image or the first replacement image and in a conversion of the second image or the second replacement image as specified for use by a receiving party;

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causing the image submission tool to enable a user to submit the first pre-processed image;
causing the image submission tool to enable a user to submit the second pre-processed image;
causing the image submission tool to transmit the first pre-processed image; and
causing the image submission tool to transmit the second pre-processed image, wherein the first pre-processed image and the second pre-processed image are grouped together in a presentation.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the first visual representation is generated from a first image file.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the first pre-processed image has a compression level as specified by the one or more pre-processing parameters.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein the first pre-processed image is cropped in a manner specified by the one or more pre-processing parameters.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein the first pre-processed image has a quality as specified by the one or more pre-processing parameters.

16. The method of claim 11, wherein the first pre-processed image has a file format as specified by the one or more pre-processing parameters.

17. The method of claim 11, wherein the first pre-processed image has an encoding as specified by the one or more pre-processing parameters.

18. The method of claim 11, further comprising causing the image submission tool to combine the first pre-processed image and the second preprocessed image into an animated presentation.

19. The method of claim 11, further comprising causing the image submission tool to transmit the first text information.

20. The method of claim 11, further comprising causing the image submission tool to transmit location information associated with the first pre-processed image.

21. A system, comprising:

one or more receivers that receive, from a first user device, user credentials, a first pre-processed image file and a second pre-processed image file, the first pre-processed image file produced through first pre-processing by the first user device of a first image, the second pre-processed image file produced through second pre-processing by the first user device of a second image, the first and second pre-processing controlled by one or more pre-processing parameters received by the first user device from a device separate from the first user device, the one or more pre-processing parameters used to control the first user device in a conversion of the first image and in a conversion of the second image as specified for use by a receiving party; and

one or more transmitters that transmit, to a second user device, the first pre-processed image file and the second pre-processed image file for grouping together as part of a presentation associated with a user identified by the user credentials.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the user credentials include a user identifier and a password.

23. The system of claim 21, wherein the first pre-processed image file is a compressed version of the first image.

24. The system of claim 21, wherein the first pre-processed image file is a cropped version of the first image.

25. The system of claim 21, wherein the first pre-processed image file has a different quality as compared to the first image.

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26. The system of claim 21, wherein the first pre-processed image file has a file format specified by at least one of the pre-processing parameters.

27. The system of claim 21, wherein the first pre-processed image file is an encoded version of the first image.

28. The system of claim 21, wherein the presentation includes first text information entered by the first user device as a first caption for the first pre-processed image file, and second text information entered by the first user device as a second caption for the second pre-processed image file.

29. The system of claim 21, wherein the presentation includes first location information associated with the first pre-processed image file and second location information associated with the second pre-processed image file.

30. A non-transitory computer-readable medium having an image submission tool stored thereon for use on a user device, the image submission tool including:

an image identifier section that when executed, causes the image submission tool to:

generate a visual representation of one or more images, the visual representation enabling a user to determine whether the one or more images should be replaced with one or more replacement images;

enable a user to enter text information as one or more captions for the one or more images or the one or more replacement images; and

pre-process the one or more images or the one or more replacement images to produce one or more pre-processed images, the pre-processing by the image submission tool controlled by one or more pre-processing parameters received from a device separate from the user device in a conversion of the one or more images or the one or more replacement images as specified for use by a receiving party;

a submission section that when executed, causes the image submission tool to enable a user to submit the one or more pre-processed images; and

an image upload control section that when executed, causes the image submission tool to transmit the one or more pre-processed images.

31. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 30, wherein the image identifier section when executed causes the image submission tool to generate the visual representation from an image file.

32. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 30, wherein the submission section when executed causes the image submission tool to enable a display of a button in a user interface that is selectable by a user to signal a confirmation.

33. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 30, wherein the one or more pre-processed images have a compression level as specified by the one or more pre-processing parameters.

34. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 30, wherein the one or more pre-processed images are cropped in a manner specified by the one or more pre-processing parameters.

35. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 30, wherein the one or more pre-processed images have a quality as specified by the one or more pre-processing parameters.

36. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 30, wherein the one or more pre-processed images have a file format as specified by the one or more pre-processing parameters.

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37. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 30, wherein the one or more pre-processed images have an encoding as specified by the one or more pre-processing parameters.

38. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 30, wherein the image upload control section when executed causes the image submission tool to transmit the text information.

39. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 30, wherein the image upload control section when executed causes the image submission tool to transmit location information associated with the one or more pre-processed images.

40. A non-transitory computer-readable medium having a media submission tool stored thereon for use on a user device, the media submission tool including:

a media identifier section that when executed, causes the media submission tool to:

generate a visual representation of a video, the visual representation enabling a user to determine whether the video should be replaced with a replacement video;

enable a user to enter text information as a caption for the video or the replacement video; and

pre-process the video or the replacement video to produce pre-processed video, the pre-processing by the media submission tool controlled by one or more pre-processing parameters received from a device separate from the user device in a conversion of the video or the replacement video as specified for use by a receiving party;

a submission section that when executed, causes the media submission tool to enable a user to submit the pre-processed video; and

a media upload control section that when executed, causes the media submission tool to transmit the pre-processed video.

41. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 40, wherein the media upload control section when executed causes the media submission tool to transmit location information associated with the pre-processed video.

42. A computer implemented method performed by an image submission tool on a user device, comprising:

causing the image submission tool to generate a visual representation of one or more images, the visual repre-

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sentation enabling a user to determine whether the one or more images should be replaced with one or more replacement images;

causing the image submission tool to enable a user to enter text information for association with the one or more images or the one or more replacement images;

causing the image submission tool to pre-process the one or more images or the one or more replacement images to produce one or more pre-processed images, the pre-processing by the image submission tool controlled by one or more pre-processing parameters received from a device separate from the user device in a conversion of the one or more images or the one or more replacement images as specified for use by a receiving party;

causing the image submission tool to enable a user to submit the one or more pre-processed images; and causing the image submission tool to transmit the one or more pre-processed images.

43. The method of claim 42, wherein the image submission tool generates the visual representation from an image file.

44. The method of claim 42, wherein the image submission tool enables a display of a button in a user interface that is selectable by a user to signal a confirmation.

45. The method of claim 42, wherein the one or more pre-processed images have a compression level as specified by the one or more pre-processing parameters.

46. The method of claim 42, wherein the one or more pre-processed images are cropped in a manner specified by the one or more pre-processing parameters.

47. The method of claim 42, wherein the one or more pre-processed images have a quality as specified by the one or more pre-processing parameters.

48. The method of claim 42, wherein the one or more pre-processed images have a file format as specified by the one or more pre-processing parameters.

49. The method of claim 42, wherein the one or more pre-processed images have an encoding as specified by the one or more pre-processing parameters.

50. The method of claim 42, further comprising causing the image submission tool to transmit the text information.

51. The method of claim 42, further comprising causing the image submission tool to transmit location information associated with the one or more pre-processed images.

* * * * *

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 9,386,094 B2
APPLICATION NO. : 14/107261
DATED : July 5, 2016
INVENTOR(S) : Wood et al.

Page 1 of 1

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

In The Claims

Col. 12, line 3, before “pre-processing” insert --one or more--.

Signed and Sealed this
Twenty-fifth Day of October, 2016

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michelle K. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michelle K. Lee
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office